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Rx News Bulletin

Bureau of Narcotics & Dangerous Drugs

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

health.mo.gov/safety/bndd/index.php

Ambulatory Surgery Centers Require Their Own BNDD and DEA Registrations

A registrant conducting activities with controlled substances must have a Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (BNDD) and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration to match the type of professional license they have. Individual practitioners, such as physicians who are licensed by the state medical board, have their own personal drug registrations for their individual practices.

Physicians are not authorized to use their personal drug registrations to operate an ambulatory surgery center (ASC). If there is a physician who is using their DEA number to obtain drugs for a licensed ASC, the physician should have the ASC apply for their own separate registration as a facility. Applications for ASCs can be found on the BNDD website at www.health.mo.gov/BNDD. The ASCs may apply online using the application for businesses and clicking on the box for ambulatory surgery centers.

Federal Government Addressing Unregulated Psychotic Substances

There have been ongoing items in the news these past few years regarding novel psychoactive substances. These substances have been identified as phenethylamines, cathinones and other synthetic preparations. Substances go by the street names of ice, bath salts, vanilla sky, zoom, mood dust or cloud nine. Many of these substances are manufactured in Mexico and China and shipped via the internet. These substances have avoided the Controlled Substances Act of 1970 because their names and chemical structures have not been defined in statute.

When the Drug Enforcement Administration schedules a new substance, the illicit manufacturers simply change the formula by one molecule making their new product bypass the controlled substance list. This has been occurring for several years. Law enforcement sometimes finds it impossible to prosecute cases of manufacturing, abuse, overdose or psychotic episodes when the substance has not been codified as a controlled substance and there are no set standards in the analytical law enforcement laboratories.

While state and federal regulatory agencies continue to amend regulations to address all these new substances, a new bill has been introduced in congress. Representative Charles Dent of Pennsylvania has introduced H.R. 3537, The Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2015. This bill seeks to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify how controlled substance analogues are to be regulated. For additional information, you may visit the DEA website at www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov, click on the tab for Resources and then the link to Synthetic Drugs.

DEA to Continue Drug Take-Back Events in 2016

Due to the popular demand and ongoing need to dispose of unwanted pharmaceuticals, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has announced they will continue drug take-back days for 2016. There will be one event around April 2016 in the spring and then a second event in the fall with a date to be announced for September or October. During the weekend of September 26, 2015, the DEA collected 702,365 pounds of unwanted medications from 5,000 locations across the United States. Ten percent (10%) of those drugs were controlled substances.

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Bureau Administrator Attends National Drug Conference

The Missouri BNDD is a member of the National Association of State Controlled Substance Authorities (NASCSA). This is a national group of state and federal regulatory agencies, as well as organizations in the private sector such as manufacturers, distributors, chain pharmacies, and other groups involved with controlled substance activities in the medical field. The group meets each year to review and discuss legislation, regulations, current trends and best practices. This last meeting in October addressed many topics such as regulatory law updates, prescription monitoring programs, use of opiates in pain management, electronic prescribing, and the current crisis in prescription drug abuse leading to heroin deaths.

Michael Boeger, administrator, Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs attends the National Association of State Controlled Substance Authorities Conference.

Make Sure You Receive Your Mail from BNDD

The BNDD mails out a reminder post card to each registrant 60 days prior to their expiration date. If a registration expires, the BNDD will mail out a second post card notice seven days after the expiration date. The bureau mails these notices to the address that registrants have provided the bureau. On an application for registration, the applicant provides their registered practice location where drug activity occurs with an option for a separate mailing address. Registrants are reminded to make sure they keep their addresses current with the bureau so that they can receive mail. Updating your address can be done from the bureau's website at www.health.mo.gov/BNDD.

Update your address at www.health.mo.gov/BNDD.

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Alternate forms of this publication for persons with disabilities may be obtained by contacting the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, BNDD, P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO, 65102, (573) 751-6321. Hearing- and speech-impaired citizens can dial 711. EEO/AAP services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.